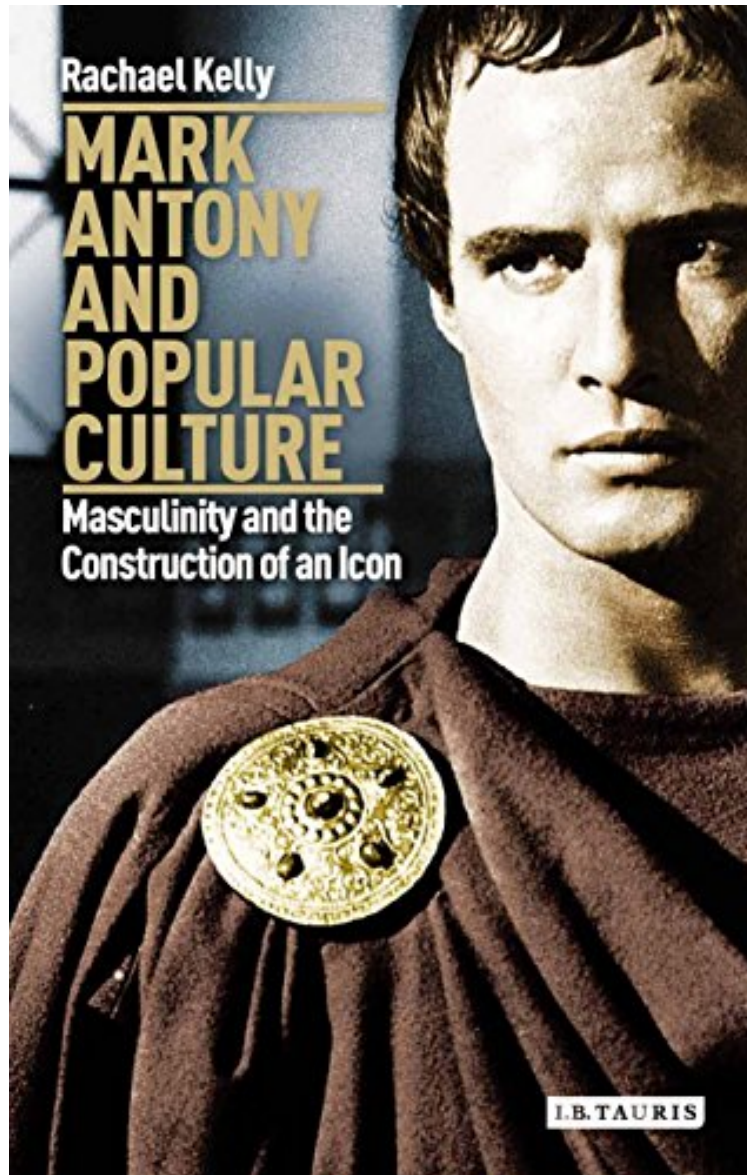


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Mark Antony and Popular Culture: Masculinity and the Construction of an Icon (International Library of Cultural Studies)

Rachael Kelly

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Rachael Kelly : Mark Antony and Popular Culture: Masculinity and the Construction of an Icon (International Library of Cultural Studies) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mark Antony and Popular Culture: Masculinity and the Construction of an Icon (International Library of

Cultural Studies):

Who was Mark Antony? Popular culture remembers him as a deeply flawed character whose excessive appetites cost him an empire. From Shakespeare to the silver screen, Mark Antony's notoriety for drunkenness and decadence have survived and flourished in contemporary pop culture representations. But drunkenness and decadence were gendered concepts in Roman political discourse, and their use in constructing Mark Antony is not as straightforward as it might appear. In this fascinating account of a classical figure and his reception in popular culture, Rachael Kelly traces the evolution of the Mark Antony myth in Hollywood historical epic film and television. Examining the recurring tropes behind Richard Burton's Byronic dilettante and James Purefoy's amoral, impulsive bully-boy, Kelly deftly reveals the part these representations have to play in transmitting and interrogating a discourse of hegemonic masculinity that stretches all the way from Plutarch to the present day. *Diplomacy*.

Rachael Kelly has fashioned a dazzling and insightful new study... With expert analyses of the foundational texts of Cicero, Plutarch, and Shakespeare, alongside sharp, engaging elucidations of an array of essential films and televisual texts from De Mille's *Cleopatra* (1934) and Mankiewicz's *Cleopatra* (1963) to HBO-BBC's *Rome* (2005-07), *Mark Antony and Popular Culture* makes a major original contribution to the fields of classical receptions and gender studies, as Kelly unpacks with clarity and verve the Herculean intemperance projected onto the Antony screen-icon and positions it as an emblem of contemporary anxieties, fears, and fantasies about idealized masculinity and its modern manufacture. Kelly's brilliant new work is quite simply a tour de force - theoretically acute, historically informed, and popularly inspired - befitting the most (in)famous lover and rogue of all time. Monica S. Cyrino, Professor of Classics, University of New Mexico, USA "At last - an original and engaging assessment of Mark Antony's place in popular culture. Rachel Kelly argues forcefully that we should turn our attention from Cleopatra and Julius Caesar to the enigmatic figure of Antony, the dissolute yet gifted Roman general. She explains clearly how and why the Antony we see in film and television puts on display modern anxieties about masculinity. In doing so, Kelly illuminates for us both Antony's important social function and his continuing fascination." Maria Wyke, Professor of Latin, UCL, London
About the Author Rachael Kelly is a graduate of the University of Ulster, Northern Ireland, where she was awarded a PhD in Film and Gender Studies. Her research explores the cultural function of Mark Antony in screen texts and screen portrayals of Cleopatra in light of recent debates in feminist film theory.